

the inside Scoop

Viewpoints:

The 96th Flying Training Squadron Commander explains how today's Air Force is prepared to respond to any military contingency in a minute's notice.

Page 2

News:

The annual 47th Operations Group Christmas party brings out the Laughlin masses.

Page 4

Five Laughlin airmen are promoted to senior airman under the below-the-zone program.

Page 6

A Navy ship is named after an Air Force Medal of Honor recipient.

Page 8

Lifestyles:

Holiday lighting precautions are explained.

Page 10

Sports and Health:

Base bowlers get a chance to compete at an Air Education and Training Command competition.

Page 11

Air Power
Quote of the Week

"The bomber will always get through."

—Stanley Baldwin

Base angels bearing gifts

By Airman Timothy J. Stein

Staff writer

The Enlisted Spouses Club, with the help of the Laughlin Chapel and base exchange, is hosting the Angel Tree program until Dec. 17.

The annual event is designed to give Christmas gifts to area children who otherwise might not receive any.

Two trees, located at the chapel and base exchange, are decorated with small, brightly colored paper angels. Each angel has the age and gender of a child written on it. To buy a gift for one of these children, anyone can take one of the paper angels from either tree and buy an appropriate gift using the information on the angel as a guideline. Then, that person can place the gift, along with the angel, back under the same tree.

The children to receive the presents will be selected by the Bethel Center and Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, both of Del Rio. The presents will be distributed to children after Dec. 17.

See 'Angel,' page 4



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

First Christmas

Santa Claus visits with Emelia Hicks, 3-month-old daughter of Maj. Robert and Sherry Hicks, during the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony outside the chapel Wednesday. Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, helped base children light the tree, followed by Santa arriving in a fire truck to visit with kids.

Former Laughlin wing commander to head AETC

Compiled from staff reports

A former Laughlin wing commander was confirmed by the Senate Nov. 29 for appointment to the grade of general with an assignment as the commander of Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base.

Gen. Donald G. Cook is currently vice commander of Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va. He assumed his current duties in

June 2000.

The assumption of command ceremony is scheduled to take place at Randolph AFB Dec. 17.

Gen. Cook is a command pilot with more than 3,300 hours in the B-52D/G/H, T-37B and T-38A. He has commanded the 21st Space Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo.; 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Fla.; and 20th Air Force at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.



Gen. Cook



Commanders' Corner

By Lt. Col. Kenneth Mattison
96th Flying Training Squadron Commander

Air Force still full of 'minutemen'

We often hear the phrase "weekend warriors" when talking about guardsmen and reservists. We also hear them referred to as "minutemen."

Who were these minutemen? They were ordinary folk, like you and I – laborers, farmers, merchants and schoolteachers – who were ready in a minute's notice to come to the defense of their country.

Like the framers of our Constitution, these valiant and courageous Americans sacrificed tremendously to establish a free nation, one that truly has been and is a light unto the world. They and their families gave their all, including their lives, for us. From their sacrifice, countless numbers of people in our cherished land – and many more in lands where the

flame of freedom was ignited and flourished – enjoy those inspired and God-given rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We owe greatly to all the men and women who sacrificed so much for us.

Are there any minutemen today? I think there are, and they are not just guardsmen and reservists. I contend there is more to what defines a true minuteman than just being a civilian who would answer the call to arms in a minute's notice. Besides, today most members of the Guard and Reserve get at least 48 hours notice to be called up. No, there is much more to being a true minuteman.

It is someone who loves their country and countrymen so much they are willing to sacrifice everything, even their lives for them. It

denotes a voluntary will to protect and defend our nation. Just as no one forced the minutemen to serve, so has no one forced any of us, whether on active duty or in the Guard or Reserve, to serve.

We have all answered the call to serve. If we serve for love of country and are willing to sacrifice our all for those lofty ideals our nation stands for, then in my book at least, we are all minutemen. We join the ranks of our noble forefathers who gave their all for our nation.

We have truly become one team, especially over the last decade or so. The lines between the active and inactive have become much less defined.

See 'Minutemen,' page 3

Top Three Talk

By Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Mathews
96th Flying Training Squadron superintendent



Air Force still great second time around

When I graduated from high school, I did what I was expected to do: I went to college. I was there for two years when I decided it was not what I really wanted. I left college, got a regular job and, later on, got married.

My spouse was in the Air Force, and after our marriage we were assigned to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., in 1978.

There was a hiring freeze on government jobs at that time; in fact, any job was hard to find. It was then and there I decided what I wanted to do – join the Air Force. I came on active duty in March of 1979.

I loved what I did in the Air Force – so much so I held dual Air Force Specialty Codes, personnel and information management.

In 1992 the Air Force began offering bonuses and payouts as incentives for members to separate. I decided I would separate and my spouse would continue with his career until retirement. I reluctantly took the money and separated in 1992 as many others did.

Following my Air Force separation, I worked for the state school department. It didn't take long to realize that I missed my Air Force family and the camaraderie.

After hearing of openings in the Air Force Reserve, I jumped at the opportunity to rejoin my Air Force family. It took a while, but eventually I was offered an opportunity to go back on active duty as an active Guard reserve.

This juncture came at the right

time for me, as I was going through a divorce and the Air Force gave me the chance I needed to start my life over, so to speak.

I've never looked back or regretted my decision to rejoin. In fact, I'm thankful. Many other Air Force men and women who exited during the same time frame and wanted to return, couldn't. Many found out the hard way, "The grass is not always greener."

After what I've personally experienced, I find it hard to imagine a retention problem. Now, as a senior noncommissioned officer, I mentor airmen and share with people how my life could have turned out.

Take advantage of the

See 'Air Force,' page 3



Editorial Staff

Col. Rick Rosborg
Commander

1st Lt. Dawnita Parkinson
Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Jessica Miller
Internal information chief

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

Airman Timothy J. Stein
Staff writer

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Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47th FTW motto

FPCON Bravo

Laughlin is currently in Force Protection Condition Bravo. All people should remain vigilant and report suspicious activity to security forces at 298-5100.

Serving America an awesome responsibility

**By Tech. Sgt.
Tim Dougherty**
Air Force Print News

My 7-year-old son, Alex, asked me a very good question as we were driving cross-country during the past two weeks: "Daddy, how come you're going to the Pentagon?" The simple way for me to answer the question was to have him look out the window of the car.

"You see that guy over there? I've been ordered to the Pentagon for him and his family. I'm going for the lady driving that oversized truck we just passed. I'm going because the people of America need me," I said.

Although it was a fairly philosophical way to answer the question, my two sons seemed to

understand my explanation quite well, despite their youth. The reason we serve isn't always as clear cut as it is right now.

Before the events of Sept. 11, America was at peace. Of course, it was a relative peace. Our Air Force was deployed all over the world as usual, but there wasn't any one threat you could point to and say, "I'm defending America from this particular bad guy."

The terrorist attacks on the nation put into focus the reason we wear the uniform. My trip across the country reminded me of what we are all fighting to protect.

I wear the uniform to keep the gates of Rocky Mountain National Park open for visitors

from across the country and the world. I serve because there are thousands of people in Wisconsin who need to be protected as they cheer on their Green Bay Packers. I saw countless other examples of America's freedom – the freedom we all serve to protect – during our 2,500-mile drive from California.

As my family and I window-shopped at a mall in Council Bluffs, Iowa, tears welled up in my eyes as I looked at a display of New York photographs taken before terrorists destroyed the majestic twin towers.

I serve because the people of America are too precious to allow anyone to do this to us again.

'Minutemen,' from page 2

We have reservists in Air Education and Training Command. We have AETC people who are members of Aerospace Expeditionary Forces and other deployments literally all over the world. We have Americans from across our nation who have been called up and now serve at Laughlin. We have a tremendous civilian work force. We have civilian members of Team XL, who are also reservists, whom have been called up to fight this war on terrorism and who have departed for distant lands.

We are one team engaged in this fight. No matter what capacity you serve in, you should be justifiably proud of what you do, and know our nation is grateful for your service.

During this holiday season I hope we can keep a prayer in our hearts and do something good for our team members who will not be home for Christmas and for their families who will sorely miss them.

'Air Force,' from page 2

educational opportunities. Get involved with the community and volunteer. As far as traveling is concerned, there are places to go other than San Antonio – try Space-A travel.

First-term airmen who are reading this, take heed. Learn from the people you work with. Draw from their strengths and skills and make them your own. You will be their replacements one day. There is a lot of knowledge that is available to you.

Your supervisor will help you and ensure you have all the tools necessary to get your job done.

Looking back, it's hard to believe I've been in the Air Force for 22 years. I have never regretted one day of it. I take great pride in wearing the uniform.

I challenge you to strive to be the best you can be and to have fun; and before you know it, you'll be retiring from a rewarding profession with a lifetime of memories.

Community Update

Town hall meeting set

The next town hall meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 18 at Club XL. The topic will be education. Refreshments will be served.

Expanding hours of operation

Hours for the wood skills center and bowling center are based on customer demand and profitability. Low use means low profits, which means limited hours. In order to expand the

hours of these facilities, there must be more demand for their services.

The bowling center recently started offering breakfast and also expanded its hours to offer bowling three Sundays a month. It is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on those days; it is closed every third Sunday of the month.

Call 298-5153 for the wood skills center's hours and 298-5526 for bowling center's hours.

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Rick Rosborg
Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information hotline	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power

What is policy?

Policy is an official statement of intentions. It is, for the Air Force, directive in nature. Policy is the answer to the question, "What do we want to do?" Policy primarily outlines broad goals but may articulate certain procedures or objectives. Policy is not doctrine.

Christmas party brings holiday cheer

By Airman 1st Class
Brad Pettit

Editor

Santa Claus landed in a T-38 on the Laughlin flightline to spread cheer to dozens of base children during the annual 47th Operations Group Christmas party Sunday at Anderson Hall.

"The Laughlin families – children and parents – really seemed to enjoy themselves," said Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander. "This coming together of base families really exemplified the spirit behind the holiday season. Families are our first priority and Laughlin people seem to understand this completely."

Rosborg's wife echoed these comments and expressed her gratitude to all who made the event possible.

"This year the number of kids doubled, and although it was raining, crowded and hot, Santa visited with everyone who wanted to see him," said Elizabeth Rosborg. "Thank you to Santa, all those who helped him arrive in his T-38, and all the members of the 47th Operations Group who



(Courtesy photo)

Elizabeth Rosborg and Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, pose for a shot with Santa and their son Matthew, 5, at the 47th Operations Group Christmas party.

made this special event happen. I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous effort they put forth to provide this wonderful event to all those who attended. It was a great way to kick off the holiday season."

Col. Rosborg said he encourages Laughlin families to do their best to have a good time during the holidays.

"The holidays only roll around once a year," he said. "We should all make the most of them while they're here."

'Angel,' from page 1

The program, which started Nov. 21, is already looking to be a big success, said Crystal Church, project coordinator.

"We received 300 names from the Bethel Center, and we already have presents for about half of them," said Church. "We are hoping, of course, to get presents for the other half as well."

Helen Sykes, Enlisted Spouses Club president,

said it has taken a group effort. The Bethel Center provided the names, and the chapel and exchange provided the trees and a place to put them.

"It is a really nice way to give something back to the community," said Church. "Everyone should remember, especially this time of year, not everyone is as fortunate as [he or she may be]. Plus, what could be more rewarding than helping out a child in need?"

Newsline

Laughlin blood drive set

The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center will host a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at the Fiesta Center. Free T-shirts will be given to all donors.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Todd Draper at 298-6481.

Improvement ideas sought

The Base Exchange and Commissary Advisory Council will meet at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the 47th Support Group conference room. Anyone with ideas or suggestions on how to improve the BX, commissary or shoppette product lines or on how to make the stores more customer-friendly is encouraged to attend.

Base hunting resumes

The Val Verde Military Sportsman's Club (base hunting club) is having a meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Laughlin Chapel Annex. General firearm deer hunting has been authorized and will begin Dec. 15.

Any questions can be directed to Staff Sgt. Kurt Rohl at 298-8855 or 5870 or Staff Sgt. Frank Munderback at 298-5860.

Officers council to meet

The Company Grade Officers Council will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Club XL. Council officer positions for 2002 will be voted on. All company grade officers are invited.

The CGOC is a forum for Laughlin company grade officers to work on professional development and base/community service.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Melissa Parent at 298-5053.

Awards luncheon set

The 47th Flying Training Wing quarterly awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Dec. 19 at Club XL. The menu consists of either a southwestern pita pocket with fresh vegetables or a chef salad. Both meals are \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Sign up with your first sergeant or orderly room by Tuesday.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis at 298-5456.

Information line available

Laughlin's information line number is 298-5201. People can call this number to find out important information about what's going on here.

**1 x 3
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**The Air Force rewards
good ideas with money.
Check out the IDEA
Program Data System at
<https://ideas.satx.disa.mil>, or
call the 47th Flying Training
Wing Manpower Office
at 298-5236.**

Air Force Television News airs on access channel

An Air Force unit tasked with securing enemy airfields is highlighted in the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

Tech. Sgt. David Pullen profiles the unit, which is training for possible use as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On the domestic front, Tech. Sgt. Paul Firman talks to the Air Force surgeon general about the military's readiness regarding the potential use of the smallpox virus by terrorists. Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke visits two single parents at Charleston Air Force Base, S. C., to illustrate how the war is affecting family life in the Air Force.

Staff Sgt. Eric Kerr reports on the training of NATO pilots at Sheppard AFB; and Staff Sgt. Joe Wallace examines the replacement of military personnel with civilian maintainers at Altus AFB, Okla., a move that releases airmen into career fields with critical shortages.

Staff Sgt. Michael Noel produces a special Eye on the Air Force segment called "Preserving Paradise," which illustrates the work being done at Hickam

AFB, Hawaii, to protect the environment. Senior Airman Israel Aviles visits the radiology department at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, to show how medical technology is helping military working dogs. And Senior Airman Kevin Dennison profiles the work of a former Women Airforce Service Pilot and her daughter to perpetuate the history of the World War II organization.

Air Force Television News is a bi-weekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable television outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil, and can be seen daily on The Pentagon Channel, as well as base Commanders' Access Channels. The program is the only military production offered with closed captioning. Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Sept. 11 reminds many about Pearl Harbor Day

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

In the days immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, Americans groped to find ways to describe the event.

Time and again, commentators, politicians and just plain folks called the attacks "another Pearl Harbor."

Today marks 60 years since the Japanese attack on the main bastion of American strength in the Pacific. The attack precipitated America's entry into World War II. On Dec. 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. He called Dec. 7 "a date that will live in infamy."

Sept. 11 and Dec. 7 are now linked in the public consciousness, though the attacks on those days aren't that similar, save their furtiveness. On Dec. 7, 1941, the nation of Japan attacked military bases on the then-remote U.S. territory of Hawaii, killing more than 2,500 people, mostly military members, and wounding thousands more. On Sept. 11 Al Qaeda – an amorphous, stateless terrorist network – hijacked four U.S. commercial airliners and used them to attack targets in two mainland cities, killing some 4,000 people, mostly civilians.

What the two events have in common, however, is the galvanizing response of the American people.

After Pearl Harbor, Americans swamped recruiting stations seeking to enlist. Others calmly waited for draft notices. Still others went back to their jobs and began the work that would make the United States "the Arsenal of Democracy."

The country was unified. Before Dec. 7, Roosevelt couldn't have gotten a declaration of war through Congress on a bet. After Dec. 7, only one representative voted against the declaration. When Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, declared war on the United States days later, the conflict escalated into the first truly global war in the history of mankind.

The American generation that struggled through the Depression stepped forward to save the world. Americans hadn't started the war, but they knew how to end it, knew exactly where to go and who to thrash.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, Americans felt as did President Bush, who, visiting the Pentagon shortly after a hijacked airliner had hit the building, told photographers, "I'm sad, but I'm angry, too."

Polls show the American people support the actions of the government to date. Support for military action in Afghanistan to destroy Al Qaeda terrorists and their sympathetic Taliban government hosts is also high. These same polls show Americans are willing to be patient in going after terror groups.

Dec. 7 and Sept. 11 may have another thing in common: They are dates when the world changed.

"On 9-11, our generation received one of history's greatest wakeup calls," said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

3 x 5
A. RAMON
IMPORTS



Dudley



Kirkland



Neidigh



Pruitt

Five promoted below the zone

Compiled from staff reports

Five airmen were recently informed they would be promoted to senior airman under the highly competitive below-the-zone program.

Airmen who have displayed increased responsibility are considered, and their selection not only indicates they are the best of the best, it allows them to sew on that new stripe six months early.

Airmen first class Marney Dudley, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control journeyman; Stacey Kelley, 47th Security Forces Squadron

patrolman; Eugene Kirkland, 47th Communications Squadron computer technician; Jon Neidigh, 47th OSS air traffic control apprentice; and Keith Pruitt, 47th CS meteorological and navigational systems maintenance assistant, were recently selected to sew on the rank of senior airman early.

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, said the selectees were hard-working and deserving.

"If you get an opportunity, please congratulate these fine airmen," he said.

Navy ship-naming ceremony honors Air Force hero

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi

437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Air Force war hero and Medal of Honor recipient, Airman 1st Class William Pitsenbarger, was honored at a Navy ship-naming ceremony Nov. 28, at Detyens Shipyard in Charleston, S.C.

Pitsenbarger, a pararescueman, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for treating and protecting scores of wounded infantrymen while under intense enemy fire after being mortally wounded himself, in a rain forest stronghold near the Vietnamese capital of Saigon in 1966.

Pitsenbarger's heroism was honored when a chartered ship operated for the Navy's Military Sealift Command – the ocean transportation provider for the Department of Defense – was named MV A1C William H. Pitsenbarger.

The ship will preposition Air Force ammunition at sea near potential war or contingency sites. Pitsenbarger will operate from the Diego Garcia area in the Indian Ocean.

Air Force Gen. John W. Handy, commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

A pair of F-15E Strike Eagles from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., flew over the ship when Richardene Brewer, wife of Navy Rear Adm. David L. Brewer III,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Buytas

A worker paints the name "MV A1C William H. Pitsenbarger" onto a ship at Detyens Shipyard in Charleston, S.C. Pitsenbarger, a war hero and Medal of Honor recipient, was honored at a Navy ship-naming ceremony Nov. 28.

commander of Military Sealift Command, broke the ceremonial bottle of champagne officially naming the ship.

"This ship will live up to its heroic namesake, going into harms way if necessary to deliver the ammunition that the Air Force needs to carry out its worldwide mission," said the admiral during the hour-long ceremony. "We welcome this outstanding ship to the Military Sealift Command fleet."

Handy spoke of the tremendous heroism Pitsenbarger demonstrated repeatedly. He told of one mission where Pitsenbarger had figured out a way to extract a wounded soldier in a minefield at great risk to himself, earning him the Air Force Airman's Medal afterward.

"Freedom does not come with-

out a price," Handy said. "Like William H. Pitsenbarger, this ship will carry the essence of America's warfighters. Every single steel plate is a symbol of the American hero for which she is named and the iron resolve that he displayed that bitter day. Her cargo will be used to defend freedom around the world."

The Pitsenbarger will carry Air Force containerized ammunition. Air Force munitions are loaded into side-loaded 20-foot International Standardization Organization containers that are carried on these ships. The ship can hold containers with a net explosive weight of about 6 million pounds, which can weigh about 7 to 8 million short tons. About 720 con-

tainers fit under the deck and 135 in compartments above deck. Both cargo areas will be air-conditioned and dehumidified to protect the ammunition.

The Pitsenbarger has five cranes on the deck that allow the ship to on- and off-load ammunition without shoreside cranes.

This critical feature gives Pitsenbarger the flexibility to off-load in undeveloped ports.

First Lt. Mike Lenehan, program manager for the Air Force Afloat Preposition fleet at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, oversees the three container ships for the Air Force. The Pitsenbarger is the newest container ammunition ship. Military Sealift Command obtains the ships for the Air Force.

"A typical ship has a crew of about 20 people, but there is constant maintenance required and everything is on a time schedule just like your car," Lenehan said. "The ship will go to a designated port and will occasionally slow steam and operate all the cranes to maintain a certain state of readiness."

"During Enduring Freedom, we've already had to use ship cranes to download some of these containers (on the other two container ammunition ships) at some austere ports," he said.

The Pitsenbarger is owned by RR & VO L.L.C. and operated by Red River Shipping Corp. of Rockville, Md., for MSC. MSC charts the ships for five years.

Interested in the Air Force?

*Call Del Rio's Air Force
recruiter at 774-0911.*

Deployment has special meaning for refueling wing

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
319th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Not long after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, people at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., were gearing up for a military response. When the call came, the war machine of the 319th Air Refueling Wing went into action overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom. That action continues to this day.

Some airmen have returned to Grand Forks after spending several weeks at their deployed location. The feeling among those who have participated so far is very upbeat and positive.

"Of all the deployments I've been on, the morale and motivation on this one is highest," said Lt.

Col. Slim Morgan, 905th Air Refueling Squadron director of operations, who recently returned from OEF after serving as a squadron commander for the 319th Air Expeditionary Group for nearly seven weeks.

"Everybody there has unity and purpose, they know why they are there," Morgan said. "As a matter of fact, about a week before I left there we had members from an Air National Guard unit from New York come in and augment the security forces. Some of them were New York City police officers and that reminded us about why we were there."

Morgan's knowledge on the spirit of the troops does not come without experience. He was home

less than 30 days after a deployment to Operation Northern Watch when he got the call for OEF.

He said leaving one deployment and starting another did not bother him because this deployment has a special meaning.

"The morale absolutely is higher on this deployment than any other I've been on and I've been in the military for 16-and-a-half years," Morgan said. "It's a recent and personal event for everybody. It made it easy to be a commander over there because you [had] good people who knew they were there for a reason. It [didn't] matter what needed to be done whether it's their job or

See 'Special,' page 9

Where are they now?

Name: Lt. Col. John Pearson

Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 85-06

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at:

F-16, Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Mission of your current aircraft? Air-to-ground and air-to-air missions

What do you like most about your current aircraft? It has many roles.

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? Nothing

What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? Teamwork

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Drop night and graduation

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Teamwork

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Teamwork



(Courtesy photo)

Friday, Border Eagle.
Wednesday, this newspaper:
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

The XLer

Hometown:

Gautier, Mo.

Family: Single

Time at Laughlin:

1 year, 3 months

Time in service:

3 years, 9 months

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin:

A bigger base exchange

Greatest accomplishment:

Serving my country in the Air Force

Hobbies: Shopping and traveling

Bad habit: Being forgetful

Favorite book Any book by John Grisham

Favorite musician or band: Dave Matthews Band

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandfather. He passed away before I was born. He served in World War II and I would like to ask him about it.



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

Senior Airman Christina Deutsch
Laughlin Chapel assistant

'Special,' from page 8

not, our deployed people were determined to get the job done."

Capt. John Frizzell, a pilot with the 912th Air Refueling Squadron who deployed and returned with Morgan, said there is an incredible sense of community in the deployed environment.

"We all knew why we went," Frizzell said. "We had a sense a purpose and that's a great thing to have.

"In a deployment like this, it all comes into focus for you when you spend your entire life preparing for something," he said. "With all the time I've spent in my career training for something like this, actually [doing] it is an awesome experience."

Morgan and Frizzell said knowing an entire nation was behind them was important.

"There is a sense of support on base and in the local communities that is very evident for our effort," Frizzell

said. "The warm welcome I got when I got home was overwhelming."

For Morgan, the support from the community has been outstanding.

"Even since the time I've been back I can't count the number of times I've seen signs that said 'God bless America' or heard from people who have told me they appreciate the job we're doing," he said. "That does a lot for us to know the community is behind us."

Chapel Schedule



Catholic

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass
- 11 a.m. - Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
- Confession by appointment

Thursday - 6 p.m. - Choir

Jewish

Max Stool, call 775-4519

Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200

Nondenominational

Friday - 7 p.m. - Unity in Community Services

Protestant

Sunday - 11 a.m. - General worship
Wednesday - 12:30-2:15 p.m. - Women's Bible Study at chapel
- 7 p.m. - Choir at chapel

Chapel events

Newcomer's dinner - 6 p.m. Wednesday

Monthly prayer breakfast - 7 a.m. Dec. 19

Christmas Eve service schedule

5 p.m. Mass, 7 p.m. Candlesight service, 10 p.m. Midnight Mass

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Be aware of fire dangers during holiday season

By John Alexander

*47th Civil Engineer Squadron
fire prevention chief*

Decorating your home and entertaining family and friends can help brighten the holiday season, but using damaged decorations and other electrical products may lead to dangerous situations, including injury from shock or fire.

The Laughlin Air Force Base Fire Department encourages all residents, as well as the general public, to increase fire safety in the home and offers the following tips.

- Make sure your tree has fresh, green needles. If the greenery isn't fresh, it can lead to a greater fire risk. When you put your live tree in the base holder, remember to keep it filled with water at all times.
- Keep your tree a safe distance (at least three feet) from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating and

other sources of heat. Make sure it isn't blocking an exit. These safety tips are important for both fresh and artificial trees.

■ Use light strings that bear the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) Mark. The UL Mark on a product means that engineers have tested samples of the products for risk of fire, electric shock and other hazards. Also, follow the manufacturer's instructions when using light strings and other electrical decorations.

■ Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before plugging them in. Cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new decorations.

■ Unplug light strings and electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses. Check the instructions to determine which mainte-

nance procedure the manufacturer recommends you perform. Don't attempt to make a repair unless the instructions indicate the proper procedures and equipment for doing so. Decorations may overheat or safety mechanisms may not operate properly if you don't use the replacement parts specified by the manufacturer.

■ Keep light strings and other electrical decorations away from the reach of children. Electrical decorations aren't toys and could produce a deadly electric shock or cause a fire if misused.

■ Check for red or green UL Mark on your light strings. The green holographic UL Mark means the light strings should only be used indoors. A red mark means the strings can be used both inside and outside.

■ Turn off all electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. Never leave light

string and other electrical decorations operating unattended.

■ Practice kitchen safety. Turn off and unplug all appliances when not in use. Turn pots and pans handles inward so they won't be pulled or knocked off the stove.

■ Make sure your home is equipped with working smoke alarms and fire extinguishers that bear the UL Mark. Don't forget to install, test and maintain these devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

■ Developed a fire escape plan for your household. Every member should know at least two ways out of each room. Designate a well-lit place, a safe distance from your home, where everyone can meet in the event of a fire.

By putting this safety checklist into effect in your home, you'll be on your way toward a happier and safer holiday season.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Going once, twice, gone

Bill Weaver, Del Rio auctioneer, auctions off a stuffed stocking at the annual Officers Spouses' Club Charitable Auction Saturday. Several items were donated by various Laughlin and Del Rio people and organizations to be auctioned off at the event. The event raised a total of \$5,799.50, which will go toward OSC scholarships and to support local organizations.

Common cold: No cure but patience

By Dr. (Capt.) Mark Vanderwel

47th Medical Operations Squadron
pediatric primary care manager

A cold is a viral infection that can cause fever, headache, tiredness, fussiness, stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, sore throat or cough. The drainage from the nose may be clear, yellow or green.

Preschool children get six to 10 colds per year and most colds last 10 to 14 days.

Older children and adults have fewer colds and they don't last for quite as long. People get colds from other people who have colds. Colds are not caused by cold air, getting wet or by going outdoors without a coat or hat.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for a cold. Many parents and doctors will try various remedies. Antibiotics like Amoxicillin, Zithromax and others are only used to treat bacterial infections and have no indication in a cold. Viruses, which are not killed by antibiotics, cause colds. Even more important, the inappropriate use of antibiotics to treat viruses leads to more resistant bacteria, which affects everyone in the community.

In older children and adults, you can use over-the-counter decongestants, cough medicines (antitussives), or expectorants, depending on which symptoms bother you the most. I do not recommend these medicines in chil-

dren younger than four years of age because there is no proven benefit and because all medicines have side effects.

In infants, you can use saline drops (either purchased or make your own by adding a teaspoon of salt into two cups of warm water) to help clear the nose. Combine these with bulb suctioning of the nose for best effect.

Although the symptoms of most colds are usually mild or moderate, they can predispose to other conditions. The nasal congestion may clog up the eustachian tube (which runs between the inner ear and the mouth) and may lead to an ear infection. Colds may trigger a wheezing episode in people who are predisposed to them. Lastly, if a cold lasts for longer than three weeks, it may have developed into a bacterial sinus infection.

There are some things you can do to prevent colds. Infants who are breast-fed have fewer colds than those who are bottle-fed. Unfortunately, this is not an option for most adults. Frequent handwashing can help limit transmission of colds. There is no vaccine for the majority of viruses that cause colds, but there is a flu shot.

In summary, the fewer medicines you use to treat a cold, the better. The best prescription is patience.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Sports and Health briefs

Laughlin biathlon scheduled

The XL Fitness Center is hosting a Santa Claus Biathlon Dec. 15. The competition will begin at 1 p.m. at the west gate and will consist of a five-mile run and a seven- to 12-mile mountain bike race.

There will be male and female categories. Awards will be given to the top two finishers in each category. Participants must be 16 years of age or older.

Outdoor recreation will provide a limited supply of mountain bikes at no cost for this competition. Use of the bikes will be for the start and finish of the race on the day of event only. A minimum of six competitors is required for the event to be held.

Register at the XL Fitness Center prior to the event or register at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the west gate.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. John Fastinger at 298-5251.

Base people get chance to compete in bowling contest

Compiled from staff reports

Six people from each Air Education and Training Command base will gather in Biloxi, Miss., in mid-January to participate in the Second Command Championship Bowling Tournament.

Randy Shircel, Headquarters AETC Services Business Operations chief, said the contestants would compete for a position at this year's Air Force bowling program training camp. One base team will be crowned AETC Bowling Champions.

"These honored individuals will be presented with individual prizes recognizing them as part of the champion team, as well as a team trophy to be engraved with the base name and team members' names," said Shircel. "This special trophy travels to the command championship base."

The AETC Command Bowling Tournament is partly supported by Columbia 300. No federal endorsement of the sponsor is intended.

To form the Laughlin bowling team, a three-game best series bowling tournament is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Cactus Lanes Bowling Center. The winners of the Cactus Lanes roll-off will represent Laughlin at Kessler Air Force Base, Miss.

The AETC Command Bowling Championship rules are as follows:

- The tournament is a three-day variable format competition for active duty Air Force people.
- Gross scores determine the winners in each of the four categories of competition.
- Each AETC base may send four men and two women to the competition.
- The total tournament pin count from each base is used to determine the winner of the Commander's Trophy.
- Each base must have six participants to compete for the Commander's Trophy.
- Winners will be selected to represent AETC at the Air Force Bowling Program Training Camp.
- The CBT will be conducted at a host base selected by Headquarters AETC.
- The tournament director and host base project officer will administer the event.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. John Fastinger at the XL Fitness Center at 298-5326 or Pete Hernandez at Cactus Bowling Lanes at 298-5526.

Bowling standings

Team	Points
OSS	60-28
Boeing	59-29
DECA	52-36
Services	52-36
47 FTW	38-50
CE	34-54
SFS	31-57
Commtracting	26-62



XL Fitness Center hours

Monday – Thursday:
5 a.m. to midnight
Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday,
Holidays:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.